

Claims:

1.(currently amended) A method of acquiring description data for broadcast audiovisual content, the method comprising:

- a step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing in a receiver terminal (12) at least one initial information request comprising an address of at least one audiovisual content description server (16);
- a step (26) of generating at least one information request on the basis of the initial information request;
- a step (28) in which a the receiver terminal (12) transmits at least one the information request to at least one the server (16) of audiovisual content descriptions; and
- a step (30) of the receiver terminal (12) receiving description data supplied as a function of elements of the request;

~~the method being characterized in that it includes a prior step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing in the receiver terminal (12) at least one initial information request comprising the address of at least one audiovisual content description server (16) and a step (26) of generating the request on the basis of the previously acquired initial request.~~

2.(currently amended) A description data acquisition method according to claim 1, characterized in that The method of claim 1, wherein during the reception step (30), audiovisual content description data is supplied as a function of a

relationship between at least one date and time associated with the request and the broadcast date and time of the audiovisual content.

3.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to claim 2, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 2, wherein the date and time associated with the request corresponds to the date and time at which the request is transmitted.

4.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein, the request as transmitted is identical to the initial request.

5.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 2 to 4, characterized in that,~~ The method of claim 2, wherein during the request generation step (26), the initial request is extended by specifying at least one date and time.

6.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to claim 5, characterized in that,~~ The method of claim 5, wherein, during the reception step (30), the data supplied is that corresponding to audiovisual content broadcast at the date and time specified in the request.

7.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to claim 5 or claim 6, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 5, wherein during the request generation step (26), the initial request is expanded by specifying a number of content items, and in that during the reception step (30), the data supplied corresponds to the requested number of audiovisual content items broadcast starting from the date and time specified in the request.

8.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 2 to 4, characterized in that,~~ The method of claim 2, wherein during the request generation step (26), the initial request is extended by specifying a time interval, and in that during reception step (30), the data supplied relates to audiovisual content broadcast in the time interval specified in the request.

9.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to claim 8, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 8, wherein the time interval is defined by a start date and time and by an end date and time.

10.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to claim 8, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 8, wherein the time interval is defined by a start date and time and by a duration.

11.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 2 to 10, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 2, wherein during the request generation step (26), the initial request is extended by specifying keywords corresponding to the names of description elements for broadcast audiovisual content.

12.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 2 to 11, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 2, wherein following the step (30) of receiving description data, the method returns to the request generation step (26) in order to generate at least one new request associated with a new date and a new time corresponding to the end-of-broadcast date and time for the audiovisual content for which description data has just been received.

13.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing an initial request comprises downloading (20) said request from a description server (16).

14.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing an initial step comprises the receiver terminal (12)

receiving (22) said initial request via a signaling channel associated with an audiovisual content broadcast channel.

15.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing an initial request comprises a broadcast server (10) supplying (24) an SDP type file corresponding to an address field of a description server (16).

16.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the description data is supplied in the form of an XML file.

17.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the request is associated with a single audiovisual content broadcast channel.

18.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that,~~ The method of claim 1, wherein while generating (26) the request for transmission, a set of broadcast channels is defined, and in that during transmission step (28), as many requests are transmitted as there are broadcast channels specified in the request.

19.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 18, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the request generation step comprises adding at least one selection criterion to the initial request.

20.(currently amended) A system for acquiring description data for broadcast audiovisual channel, the system comprising at least one receiver terminal (12) for receiving audiovisual content and at least one audiovisual content description server (16), ~~the system being characterized in that~~ the receiver terminal (12) includes including means for acquiring and storing at least one initial information request comprising the address of at least one description server (16), means for generating a request on the basis of the initial request, and means for transmitting said request to the description server, and in that the description server (16) includes means for transmitting to the receiver terminal (12) description data supplied as a function of the request.

21.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition system according to claim 20, characterized in that~~ The system of claim 20, wherein the description server (16) includes means for making an initial request available.

22.(currently amended) ~~A description data acquisition system according to claim 20 or~~
~~claim 21, characterized in that~~ The system of claim 20, wherein the system
includes at least one audiovisual content broadcast server (10), said server
including means for transmitting initial requests together with the broadcast
content.

23.(currently amended) An audiovisual content broadcast server (10) for implementing a
~~description acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 19, comprising:~~
· a step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing in a receiver terminal (12) at least one
initial information request comprising an address of at least one audiovisual
content description server (16);
· a step (26) of generating at least one information request on the basis of the
initial information request;
· a step (28) in which a the receiver terminal (12) transmits the information request
to the server (16) of audiovisual content descriptions; and
· a step (30) of the receiver terminal (12) receiving description data supplied as a
function of elements of the request;
~~characterized in that it includes~~ the server including transmission means for transmitting
initial requests together with the broadcast content.

24.(currently amended) A broadcast server (10) according to claim 23, characterized in that The server of claim 23, wherein the transmission means are regular transmission means.

25.(currently amended) A receiver terminal (12) for receiving audiovisual content to implement a description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 19, characterized in that it includes comprising:

- a step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing in a receiver terminal (12) at least one initial information request comprising an address of at least one audiovisual content description server (16);
- a step (26) of generating at least one information request on the basis of the initial information request;
- a step (28) in which a the receiver terminal (12) transmits the information request to the server (16) of audiovisual content descriptions; and
- a step (30) of the receiver terminal (12) receiving description data supplied as a function of elements of the request; the receiver comprising means for storing an initial request and means for generating a request to be transmitted on the basis of the initial request.

26.(currently amended) An audiovisual content description server (16) for implementing a description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 19, the server being characterized in that it includes comprising:

- a step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing in a receiver terminal (12) at least one initial information request comprising an address of at least one audiovisual content description server (16);
- a step (26) of generating at least one information request on the basis of the initial information request;
- a step (28) in which a the receiver terminal (12) transmits the information request to the server (16) of audiovisual content descriptions; and
- a step (30) of the receiver terminal (12) receiving description data supplied as a function of elements of the request;

the server comprising means for making an initial request available.